

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 47-78 and insert the following new claims:

76. (New) A digital book, comprising:
a) a casing having a display unit with at least one touch screen operable by at least one finger of a hand of a user or by a screen pen;
b) the rear side of the display unit having a concave inward curvature; and
c) where at least one outer edge of the display unit being designed as a gripping handle and being of larger thickness than the display unit in the inwardly curved region.

77. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, wherein the inwardly curved region substantially extends from a first edge zone to an opposite second edge zone of the casing.

78. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, wherein the inwardly curved region substantially in parallel to the gripping handle.

79. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, wherein the inwardly curved region substantially in parallel to the accumulator.

80. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, where said at least one outer edge designed as a gripping handle comprises at least one battery or accumulator.

81. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, the screen being a touch screen operable by at least one finger of a hand or with a screen pen.

82. (New) Digital book according to claim 81, where the casing is provided with a holding means for receiving the screen pen for use as operating, writing, drawing and/or processing tool.

83. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, where said at least one outer edge designed as a gripping handle is substantially of cylindrical shape.

84. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, where said at least one outer edge designed as a gripping handle comprises multiple operating switches, the switches being adapted to be used as directional keys and/or function keys which can be operated individually or in combination.

85. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, where a second outer edge of the display located opposite to the said at least one outer edge has a larger thickness than the display unit in the inwardly curved region.

86. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, where at least one of the left and right outer edges is rounded.

87. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, where the casing is provided with a holding means for receiving a screen pen for use as operating, writing, drawing and/or processing tool.

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88. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, further comprising an interface unit for inputting and outputting information and for supplying energy.

89. (New) Digital book according to claim 88, further comprising a removable supply unit, the casing being insertable into the supply unit, the supply unit adapted to be connected with the interface unit.

90. (New) Digital book according to claim 89, the supply unit comprising a connecting cable for inputting and/or outputting information.

91. (New) Digital book according to claim 90, the connecting cable being adapted to connect the supply unit to an element taken from a set comprising a computer, a modem, and a power supply.

92. (New) Digital book according to claim 76,
a) further comprising a control unit;
b) the control unit having means for receiving, storing, processing and reproducing information contains a control means comprising at least one RAM, a ROM and/or an EPROM, at least one processor, at least one driver circuit and a bus line.

93. (New) Digital book according to claim 92, said control unit having means for receiving, storing, processing and reproducing information, the information may be present in the form of text, image, graphical, audio and/or video information.

94. (New) Digital book according to claim 76,
a) further comprising at least one manipulation region for use by a user,
b) said manipulation region being located at the least one outer edge of the display unit such that the user can execute operations with the fingers of a hand holding the casing;
c) the manipulation region has provided therein at least one operating element adapted to be actuated, and
d) the at least one operating element triggering one or more functions out of the set comprising:
- leafing-through functions,
- scrolling functions,
- providing functions for selection menus,
- selection functions within selection menus,
- effecting a change in operating state,
- setting document information,
- loading document information, and
- switching over to a different mode of operation.

95. (New) Digital book according to claim 94, where said manipulation region is substantially located on the front end of the casing.

96. (New) Digital book according to claim 94, where said manipulation region is substantially located on the rear side of the casing.

97. (New) Digital book according to claim 94, where said manipulation region is substantially located on the lateral portion of the casing.

98. (New) Digital book according to claim 94, the at least one operating element being selected from a set comprising capacitive proximity switches, miniature keys, trackballs, and multi function keys.

99. (New) Digital book according to claim 94, the at least one operating element being located at a position in the middle of a lateral edge of a display side, the lateral edge comprising the gripping handle.

100. (New) Digital book according to claim 94, the at least one operating element being located at a position in the middle of a lateral edge of a display side, the lateral edge being opposite to the gripping handle.

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101. (New) Digital book according to claim 76, the casing having a main part, a secondary part, and a pivot hinge, said main part and said secondary part being pivotably coupled by said pivot hinge.

102. (New) Digital book according to claim 101, wherein an accumulator is provided in the casing adjacent to or in the pivot hinge.

103. (New) Digital book according to claim 101, wherein the secondary part is a book cover.

104. (New) Digital book according to claim 101, wherein the book cover is flexible.

105. (New) Digital book according to claim 101, wherein the secondary part comprises at least one input means.

106. (New) Digital book according to claim 101, wherein the secondary part comprises a second display.

107. (New) Digital book according to claim 101, wherein the display and the second display are adapted for a combined-display operating mode and of a separate-display operating mode.

108. (New) Digital book according to claim 101, wherein the rear side of the secondary part has the same shape than the rear side of the first part.

109. (New) Digital book according to claim 101, wherein the secondary part is adapted to be removable from the main part.

110. (New) A digital book, comprising

- a) a casing with at least one display for displaying information and with at least one input means, the casing having at least one pivot hinge, a first part and a second part, said first part and said second part being pivotably coupled by said pivot hinge;
- b) the casing adapted to be folded open and shut like a book; and
- c) a substantially cylindrically shaped accumulator chamber with at least one accumulator provided therein, the accumulator chamber being located substantially coaxial with the hinges; the substantially cylindrically shaped accumulator chamber having a chamber part encompassing the accumulator;
- d) the chamber part being adapted to be removable from one of the first or second parts;
- e) the accumulator being adapted to be recharged by means of a power supply via an interface means.

111. (New) Digital book according to claim 110, wherein in the shut status of the casing, the longitudinal axis of the accumulator chamber, the hinge axis, the upper surface of the first part and the upper surface of the second part are substantially located in one plane.

112. (New) Digital book according to claim 110, wherein said hinge means has a diameter larger than the diameter of the accumulator.

113. (New) Digital book according to claim 110, wherein said hinge means has a diameter substantially equal to the outer diameter of the accumulator chamber.

114. (New) Digital book according to claim 110, wherein the thickness of the casing in the shut status in the region of the edge of the book back is substantially equal to the diameter of the hinge means and/or of the accumulator chamber.

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115. (New) Digital book according to claim 110, wherein the at least one accumulator is adapted to be removable from the battery chamber.

116. (New) Digital book according to claim 110, where the first part and the second part substantially are of the same thickness.

117. (New) Digital book according to claim 110, where the accumulator chamber is substantially centred with regard to the upper and lower edges of the first and second parts.

118. (New) Digital book according to claim 110 where the pivot hinge consists of two pivot hinge elements substantially centred with regard to the lateral edges of the first and second parts adjacent to the hinges.

119. (New) Digital book according to claim 118 where the hinge elements are substantially of the same width.

120. (New) Digital book according to claim 110, characterised in that the display is a touch screen.

121. (New) Digital book according to claim 120, wherein the casing comprises at least one manipulation area, the input means comprising at least a software key located on said touch screen within said manipulation area such that the software key is adapted to be operated with a thumb of a hand holding the casing if the casing is held like a book.

122. (New) Digital book according to claim 1 wherein the casing comprises at least one manipulation area, the input means comprising at least one hardware key, the hardware key being located within said manipulation area such that the hardware key is adapted to be operated with a thumb of a hand holding the casing if the casing is held like a book.

123. (New) Digital book according to claim 122, wherein the input means comprises three hardware input means.

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124. (New) Digital book according to claim 110, further comprising at least one manipulation region for use by a user;

- a) said manipulation region comprising at least one operating switch;
- b) said manipulation element being designed in the edge zone of the casing such that the user can execute operations with the fingers of either the first hand or of the second hand;
- c) where the process of operation can be carried out by actions of the fingers of the user on the manipulation region without this necessitating substantial shifting of the wrist of the respective hand relative to the casing; and
- d) the at least one operating element being capable of triggering
 - leafing-through functions and/or scrolling functions for navigating in the contents displayed,
 - providing functions for selection menus, or
 - selection functions within selection menus provided.

125. (New) A digital book, comprising:

- a) a casing with at least one display for displaying information and with at least one manipulation region, the casing having at least one pivot hinge, a first part and a second

part, said first part and said second part being pivotably coupled by said pivot hinge, said display being located on the first part, said at least one manipulation region being located on the second part;

- b) at least one manipulation region for use by a user;
- ba) said manipulation region comprising at least one hardware key for operation;
- bb) said manipulation element being designed in the edge zone of the casing such that the user can execute operations with the fingers of either the casing-holding first hand or of the casing-holding second hand if the casing is held like a book;
- bc) where the process of operation can be carried out by actions of the fingers of the user on the manipulation region without this necessitating substantial shifting of the wrist of the respective hand relative to the casing; and
- bd) the at least one operating element being capable of triggering
 - leafing-through functions and/or scrolling functions for navigating in the contents displayed,
 - providing functions for selection menus, or
 - selection functions within selection menus provided.

126. (New) Digital book according to claim 125, the screen being a touch screen operable by at least one finger of a hand or with a screen pen.

127. (New) A digital book, comprising a casing,

- a) the casing with at least one display for displaying information and with at least one manipulation region, the casing having at least one pivot hinge, a first part and at least a second part, said first part and said second part being pivotably coupled by said pivot hinge;
- b) said pivot hinge comprising at least one electrical pluggable connector means for power supply and/or for transferring data signals from or to at least one external device, the at least one electrical pluggable connector means being located in a front end of the pivot hinge.

128. (New) Digital book according to claim 127, wherein the accumulator is adapted to be recharged by a supply unit.

129. (New) Digital book according to claim 128, wherein the accumulator is adapted to be recharged via the electrical puggable connector means.

130. (New) Digital book according to claim 127, characterised in that the casing adapted to be folded open and shut like a book.

131. (New) Digital book according to claim 127, characterised in that the first part is designed to be electrically and mechanically separable from the first part so that the first part can be used alone.

132. (New) Digital book according to claim 127 wherein the at least one external device is a supply unit.

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133. (New) Digital book according to claim 127 where the at least one external device is a power supply.

134. (New) Digital book according to claim 127 wherein the at least one external device is a device selected out of a set comprising a printer device, a modem, a telephone, and a computer.

135. (New) Digital book according to claim 127 further comprising a touch screen.

136. (New) Digital book according to claim 127, wherein said pivot hinge comprises an accumulator chamber with at least one accumulator located therein.

137. (New) Digital book, comprising:

- a) a display unit (D) having a housing with at least one touch screen (3, 4),
- b) an operating means allowing the user to carry out operations on the touch screen with at least one finger of a hand;
- c) coupling means for electric coupling of a data carrier unit,
- d) said coupling means, after coupling of the data carrier unit, automatically reading out data from the data carrier unit, and

e) the data carrier unit comprising at least a memory means with software stored therein for expanding the range of capabilities with regard to the information to be displayed, the information being input via the data carrier unit.

138. (New) Digital book according to claim 137 where the data carrier unit comprises a transmitter and a receiver for wireless information transfer.

139. (New) Digital book according to claim 137, where said coupling means is provided in a side edge of the housing, the housing having a recess at the location of the coupling means such that at least a part of one outer surface of the data carrier unit inserted into said coupling means is visible to a user.

140. (New) A mobile digital display means, comprising:

- a) a casing having at least one display unit comprising a touch screen,
- aa) the casing having at least a first part and a second part, said first and second parts being hinged together by a hinge means such that the casing is adapted to be folded open and shut; and
- ab) the touch screen being adapted to provide at least one virtual operating element;
- b) at least one manipulation region for use by a user;
- ba) said manipulation region being designed in the side zone of the casing such that the user can execute operations with the fingers of a hand holding the casing;
- bb) the manipulation region providing at least one multifunction operating element adapted to be actuated by at least one finger of the hand holding the casing; and
- bd) where an operating function can either be triggered by the at least one virtual operating element by action of the thumb of the hand without this necessitating substantial shifting of the wrist of the hand relative to the casing (G) or by action of a finger of the hand on the multifunction operating element.

141. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, wherein said hinge means comprises a light emitting diode for indicating the charging state of a battery or an accumulator.

142. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, wherein the hinge means comprises a compartment.

143. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 142, wherein the compartment comprises at least one electronic component.

144. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, wherein the compartment comprises at least one connector means.

145. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 144, wherein the connector means is adapted to be coupled with at least one external device.

146. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, wherein the second part is adapted to be removable from the main part.

147. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, wherein the inwardly curved region substantially extends from a first edge zone to an opposite second edge zone of the casing.

148. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, wherein the inwardly curved region substantially in parallel to the gripping handle.

149. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, wherein the inwardly curved region substantially in parallel to the accumulator.

150. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, where said at least one outer edge designed as a gripping handle comprises at least one battery or accumulator.

151. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, the screen being a touch screen operable by at least one finger of a hand or with a screen pen.

152. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 151, where the casing is provided with a holding means for receiving the screen pen for use as operating, writing, drawing and/or processing tool.

153. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, where said at least one outer edge designed as a gripping handle is substantially of cylindrical shape.

154. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, where said at least one outer edge designed as a gripping handle comprises multiple operating switches, the switches being adapted to be used as directional keys and/or function keys which can be operated individually or in combination.

155. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, where a second outer edge of the display located opposite to the said at least one outer edge has a larger thickness than the display unit in the inwardly curved region.

156. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, where at least one of the left and right outer edges is rounded.

157. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, where the casing is provided with a holding means for receiving a screen pen for use as operating, writing, drawing and/or processing tool.

158. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, further comprising an interface unit for inputting and outputting information and for supplying energy.

159. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 158, further comprising a removable supply unit, the casing being insertable into the supply unit, the supply unit adapted to be connected with the interface unit.

160. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 159, the supply unit comprising a connecting cable for inputting and/or outputting information.

161. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 158, the connecting cable being adapted to connect the supply unit to an element taken from a set comprising a computer, a modem, and a power supply.

162. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140,
a) further comprising a control unit;
b) the control unit having means for receiving, storing, processing and reproducing information contains a control means comprising at least one RAM, a ROM and/or an EPROM, at least one processor, at least one driver circuit and a bus line.

163. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, said control unit having means for receiving, storing, processing and reproducing information, the information may be present in the form of text, image, graphical, audio and/or video information.

164. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140,
a) further comprising at least one manipulation region for use by a user,
b) said manipulation region being located at the least one outer edge of the display unit such that the user can execute operations with the fingers of a hand holding the casing;
c) the manipulation region has provided therein at least one operating element adapted to be actuated, and
d) the at least one operating element triggering one or more functions out of the set comprising:

- leafing-through functions,
- scrolling functions,
- providing functions for selection menus,
- selection functions within selection menus,
- effecting a change in operating state,

- setting document information,
- loading document information, and
- switching over to a different mode of operation.

~~165. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, the screen being a touch screen operable by at least one finger of a hand or with a screen pen.~~

~~166. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 165, wherein the casing is provided with a holding means for receiving the screen pen for use as operating, writing, drawing and/or processing tool.~~

~~167. (New) Mobile digital display means according to claim 140, wherein the display unit is located on the first part, the second part comprising a keyboard.~~

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~~168. (New) A digital book, comprising:~~

- ~~a) a casing having a display unit with at least one touch screen, the touch screen being adapted to provide at least one virtual operating element;~~
- ~~b) at least one manipulation region for use by a user;~~
- ~~ba) said manipulation region being designed in the side zone of the casing such that the user can execute operations with the fingers of a hand holding the casing;~~
- ~~bb) the manipulation region providing at least one multifunction operating element adapted to be actuated by at least one finger of the hand holding the casing; and~~
- ~~bd) where an operating function can either be triggered by the at least one virtual operating element by action of the thumb of the hand without this necessitating substantial shifting of the wrist of the hand relative to the casing or by action of a finger of the hand on the multifunction operating element.~~

~~169. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, wherein the inwardly curved region substantially extends from a first edge zone to an opposite second edge zone of the casing.~~

170. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, wherein the inwardly curved region substantially in parallel to the gripping handle.

171. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, wherein the inwardly curved region substantially in parallel to the accumulator.

172. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, where said at least one outer edge designed as a gripping handle comprises at least one battery or accumulator.

173. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, the screen being a touch screen operable by at least one finger of a hand or with a screen pen.

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174. (New) Digital book according to claim 173, where the casing is provided with a holding means for receiving the screen pen for use as operating, writing, drawing and/or processing tool.

175. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, where said at least one outer edge designed as a gripping handle is substantially of cylindrical shape.

176. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, where said at least one outer edge designed as a gripping handle comprises multiple operating switches, the switches being adapted to be used as directional keys and/or function keys which can be operated individually or in combination.

177. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, where a second outer edge of the display located opposite to the said at least one outer edge has a larger thickness than the display unit in the inwardly curved region.

178. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, where at least one of the left and right outer edges is rounded.

179. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, where the casing is provided with a holding means for receiving a screen pen for use as operating, writing, drawing and/or processing tool.

180. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, further comprising an interface unit for inputting and outputting information and for supplying energy.

181. (New) Digital book according to claim 105, further comprising a removable supply unit, the casing being insertable into the supply unit, the supply unit adapted to be connected with the interface unit.

182. (New) Digital book according to claim 181, the supply unit comprising a connecting cable for inputting and/or outputting information.

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183. (New) Digital book according to claim 182, the connecting cable being adapted to connect the supply unit to an element taken from a set comprising a computer, a modem, and a power supply.

184. (New) Digital book according to claim 168,
a) further comprising a control unit;
b) the control unit having means for receiving, storing, processing and reproducing information contains a control means comprising at least one RAM, a ROM and/or an EPROM, at least one processor, at least one driver circuit and a bus line.

185. (New) Digital book according to claim 184, said control unit having means for receiving, storing, processing and reproducing information, the information may be present in the form of text, image, graphical, audio and/or video information.

186. (New) Digital book according to claim 168,
a) further comprising at least one manipulation region for use by a user,

b) said manipulation region being located at the least one outer edge of the display unit such that the user can execute operations with the fingers of a hand holding the casing;

c) the manipulation region has provided therein at least one operating element adapted to be actuated, and

d) the at least one operating element triggering one or more functions out of the set comprising:

- leafing-through functions,
- scrolling functions,
- providing functions for selection menus,
- selection functions within selection menus,
- effecting a change in operating state,
- setting document information,
- loading document information, and
- switching over to a different mode of operation.

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187. (New) Digital book according to claim 168, wherein the casing has at least a first part and a second part, said first and second parts being hinged together by a hinge means such that the casing is adapted to be folded open and shut.

188. (New) Digital book according to claim 187, wherein the hinge means comprises a compartment.

189. (New) Digital book according to claim 188, wherein the compartment comprises at least one electronic component.

190. (New) Digital book according to claim 188, wherein the compartment comprises at least one connector means.

191. (New) Digital book according to claim 190, wherein the connector means is adapted to be coupled with at least one external device.